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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Father of all mercy, let Your presence be felt today by all on Capitol Hill and beyond. May the awareness of Your nearness make a positive impact upon our thoughts, speech, and actions. As we learn to cultivate companionship with You, may it improve our decisions, our relationships, and our aspirations. Teach us Your ways and lead us in Your truth.

Lord, as millions react to the death of Osama bin Laden, may we remember Your mercies to our Nation and our accountability to You. Bless the many who have sacrificed so much to keep us free. We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 2, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A.

COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m. today. Following that morning business, the Senate will be in executive session to consider Calendar No. 74, Roy Bale Dalton, of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; Calendar No. 76, Kevin Hunter Sharp, of Tennessee, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.

There will be an hour of debate, equally divided and controlled between Senators LEAHY and GRASSLEY or their designees.

At 5:30 this evening, there will be a rollcall vote on the Sharp nomination. The Dalton nomination will be confirmed by unanimous consent.

OSAMA BIN LADEN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, late last night, we learned the news we have been longing to hear since the worst morning in our memory: an American operation brought Osama bin Laden to justice. This was an American mission ordered by President Obama and accomplished by America's brave and brilliant military and intelligence professionals.

Last night's news stunned the world. But this operation's success should surprise no one. America's special forces

and intelligence operatives are the best—the best trained, the best equipped, the best led.

Every day of every year they risk their lives for our sake, for our safety. They are the most professional and proficient forces on the planet. Yesterday, they brought down the most wanted mass murderer on Earth. Their success is the most significant victory yet in the fight against al-Qaida and terrorism and sends a strong and unmistakable message to terrorists who threaten our country, our people, and our interests.

This success is a direct result of President Obama's leadership and the national security priorities he outlined when he took office and the green light he gave our forces this weekend. President Obama insisted that we refocus on Afghanistan and Pakistan as the central battlefields in our fight against terrorism.

Those tremendous military, diplomatic, intelligence, and economic efforts are the reason we woke up this morning in a world that is no longer home to Osama bin Laden. But the end of his life is not the end of the fight. Yesterday's operation is indeed a measure of justice, but it is only one measure of justice. Absolutely it is a definitive victory, but it does not define absolute victory. America welcomes the success of our fellow citizens' extraordinary mission.

Even as we breathe a sigh of relief, though, we are not relieved of our duty to be vigilant, to be persistent and defeat our enemy and to make our Nation stronger. The leader of al-Qaida is gone, but his organization is not. We know our enemy is widespread and motivated. The truth is, it may be more motivated today than it was yesterday.

Our troops continue to fight. Our intelligence professionals continue to work. Their families continue to sacrifice. We continue to support all of them and support each other.

We also pause today to, once again, lend a shoulder to those whose grief

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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